

Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-11 CG-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DLOS-06 IO-14 DRC-01 /080 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8690

UNCLAS TOKYO 16013

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE PRESS ARTICLES ON HALIBUT PROBLEM

REF: STATE 15842

PASS NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE/SCHONING

1. JAPANESE FISHERIES PERIODICALS HAVE GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY TO DOMESTIC HALIBUT MEASURES WHICH JAPAN FISHERY AGENCY (JFA) RECENTLY PROPOSED TO IMPLEMENT AS VOLUNTARY MEASURES. JFA PLACED SECURITY CLASSIFICATION ON COPIES OF DOMESTIC MEASURES MADE AVAILABLE TO RFA. HOWEVER, NOT SURPRISINGLY, THESE SAME MEASURES DESCRIBED ACCURATELY AND IN DETAIL IN PRESS. IN ADDITION, PAPERS DESCRIBE IN DETAIL HALIBUT DISCUSSIONS AT INPFC, INCLUDING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS EXCHANGED AT MEETING.
2. SUMMARY FREE TRANSLATIONS KEY POINTS COVERED IN TWO PERIODICALS WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE GIVEN MOST ACCURATE COVERAGE HALIBUT PROBLEM FOLLOW:
3. SUISAN KEIZAI SHIMBUN, DEC. 11: ONE DEGREE CORRIDOR BETWEEN LATITUDES 55 NORTH AND 56 NORTH VITAL TO JAPANESE OPERATIONS IN BERING SEA. GIVING UP THAT ONE DEGREE CORRIDOR (I.E. ACCEPTING U.S. PROPOSAL) MEANS ELIMINATION OF JAPANESE FISHERY IN AREA A. ALTHOUGH ICE PACK EXTEND SOUTH TO 56 DEGREES NORTH USUALLY, PACK

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IN 1973 DID NOT EXTEND FAR SOUTH AND IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR JAPANESE

VESSELS TO OPERATE IN AREA A AS FAR NORTH AS 60 NORTH. HOWEVER, THIS THIS DOES NOT MEAN SAME CONDITION WILL CONTINUE. INDUSTRY HAS TAKEN POSITION THAT IT ABSOLUTELY CAN NOT ACCEPT 56 DEGREE LINE, EVEN IF THIS MEANS GIVING UP YELLOWFIN SOLE OPERATION IN AREA E.

4. SUISAN TSUSHIN, DEC. 7: U.S. NOT SATISFIED WITH MEASURES PROPOSED BY JAPAN AT INPFC MEETING. SUBSEQUENTLY U.S. HAS UNDERTAKEN VARIOUS TYPES OF POLITICAL MOVES. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED MOST RECENTLY THAT AMBASSADOR MCKERNAN WAS PLANNING TO FORMALLY ANNOUNCE THAT HE REGRETTED INPFC WAS NOT ABLE REACH AGREEMENT ON HALIBUT ISSUE AS WELL AS ON SALMON PROBLEM. SHOULD SITUATION CONTINUE, U.S. WILL NOT BE ABLE PLACE MUCH CONFIDENCE ON ACTIVITIES OF COMMISSION AND WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO HAVE THOSE MATTERS SETTLED AT LOS CONFERENCE. JAPAN WILL IMPLEMENT NEW MEASURES AS DOMESTIC MEASURES BUT JAPAN WANTS THOSE MEASURES CONSIDERED AS MATTERS AGREED TO BY COMMISSION. IN THIS RESPECT, JAPAN LOOKS FAVORABLY ON CONVENING INTERIM MEETING. SHOESMITH

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